

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

VOLUME XXI, NUMBER 20

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FEBRUARY 11, 1952

Troubled Lands South of Europe

Suez Dispute Is One of Several Problems in North Africa and the Middle East

IS the long and bitter dispute between Britain and Egypt now on the way toward solution? It would be difficult to say. Egypt and most of her North African and Middle Eastern neighbors are undergoing a period of great unrest. Nobody knows what may happen.

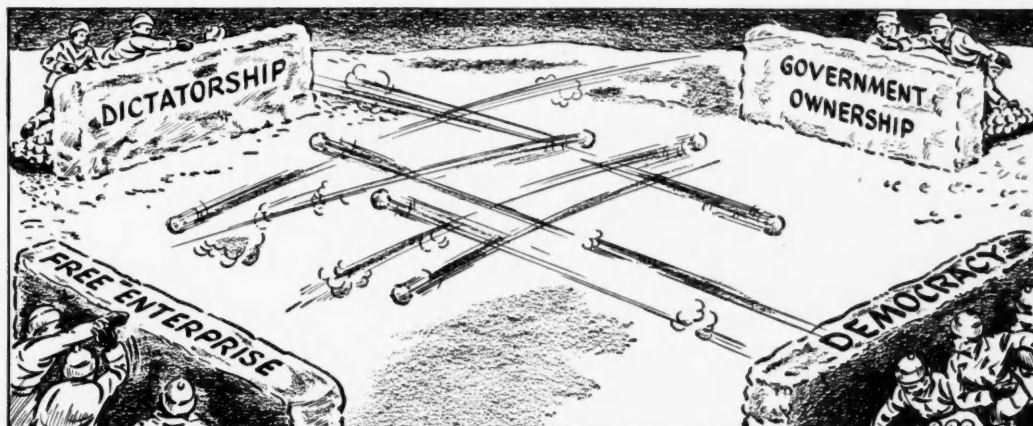
The British-Egyptian dispute has been causing trouble for a long time. Because of an old agreement between the two nations, Britain has troops stationed along the Suez Canal, which crosses Egyptian territory. She also plays the major role in governing the Sudan, a large land on the upper reaches of the Nile River. Egypt now wants full control of the Sudan, which has been officially a joint Anglo-Egyptian possession, and she says that British troops must quit the Suez area.

Britain has opposed her on both points, particularly on the Suez Canal issue. The British say that the vital waterway must be guarded and defended, and that Egypt is not capable of doing this job by herself.

The United States, Britain, France, and Turkey proposed a possible solution some time ago. These nations want to set up a joint Middle Eastern defense arrangement, and they offer to take Egypt in as a full partner. If Egypt accepted, then the partners would—as a group—take the responsibility of defending the Suez Canal.

Egypt at first scorned this proposal. The situation went from bad to worse.

(Continued on page 2)



A CONFUSING SITUATION. The world is now witnessing a four-way conflict, with democracy struggling against dictatorship, and with free enterprise fighting government ownership. Our country and Russia are on opposite sides.

Political and Economic Conflict

Fundamental Differences Between American Way of Life and Russian System Underlie Today's Global Struggle. Can Solution Be Found?

THE global clash of political and economic systems that is taking place today is the all-important issue of our times. It is already touching the lives of most Americans—in higher taxes, in the form of military service, and in other ways.

The principal adversaries in this clash are the United States and Russia. On one side or the other are the remaining nations of the world, with only a few countries entirely neutral. Whether the conflict will lead to global war, no one can say; but the gravest dangers are involved. Even though world-wide armed conflict may be averted, the future of each one of us will be profoundly affected by the struggle.

Consequently, we are devoting the remainder of this article to a question-and-answer discussion of the present clash of political and economic systems.

What is the nature of today's economic conflict?

It involves this question: Should the government of a nation own all or many industries, and strictly regulate the remainder, or will greater progress be achieved by a maximum of private industry and a minimum of government control?

Our country's answer to this question, of course, is well known. We believe in as much *free enterprise* as possible. Russia stands on the other

side and supports *government ownership and control*. Most of the politically free nations of the world have lined up, or are lining up, somewhere between the opposite economic position; represented by America and the Soviet Union.

How does the American plan of free enterprise, or capitalism, work?

Nearly all farms, factories, railways, telegraph and telephone lines, radio and television stations, newspapers, retail stores, and other businesses are owned by private persons or corporations. The federal government operates the post offices, produces a considerable amount of electricity, and owns the young atomic power industry. Some states and cities also own and manage a few enterprises. But *most* economic activities in the nation are in *private* hands.

The businesses owned by private persons and companies are not, of course, entirely free from public regulation. In times of war crisis, such as the present, the government wields a far-reaching control over industry. Even in peacetime, it maintains considerable supervision over the business life of the nation—for example, it makes many decisions involving our banking system as well as businesses and industries which sell their goods across state lines.

How much public regulation of industry there should be at any particular time is always a source of debate and controversy. Nevertheless, while many Americans favor government controls of one kind or another, the overwhelming majority of people in this country believe in a *maximum of free enterprise and private ownership*. They do not want any more government regulation than appears to be absolutely necessary for the good of the nation.

(Continued on page 6)

Who Leads in Your Community?

By Walter E. Myer



Walter E. Myer

HOW many leaders are there in your school? How many are really influential? When some movement among the students gets under way, or some school enterprise is to be supported, do a large number of students take part in the work, or is the lead taken by a few, and are the rest of the students satisfied to follow or to take no part at all in the work?

And what about your town? Who really runs it? Do hundreds of people engage actively in planning for the community, in laying out a program for it, and in seeing that the program is followed? Do the majority of people work actively at selecting candidates and at getting them appointed or elected?

Is that the way things are done in your town, or are there a few men who ordinarily make the decisions and actually get things done? Does the rest

of the population merely accept the decisions of these few?

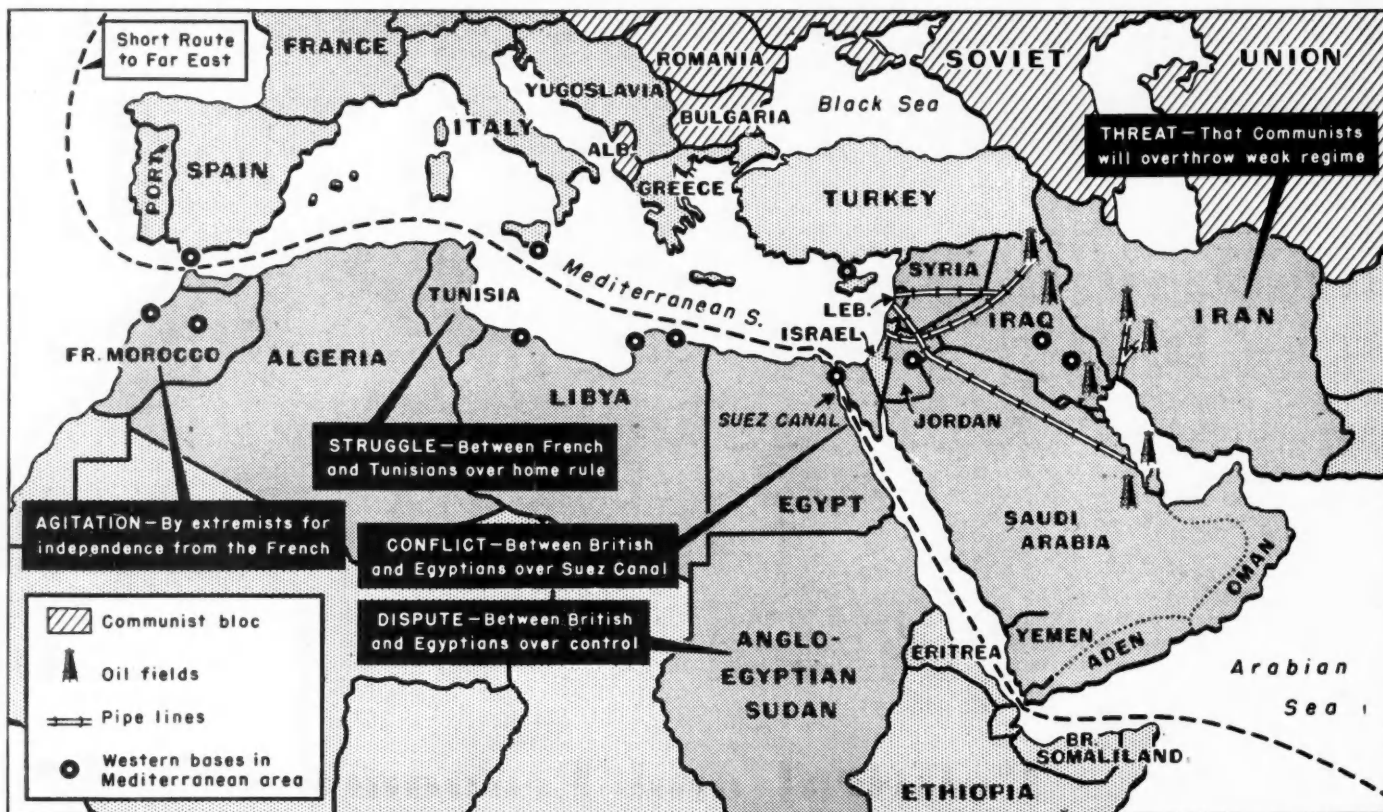
The late Raymond Clapper, a seasoned political observer in his day, made the statement that in most communities a handful of men were responsible for practically everything that was done. He said:

"Civic spirit is a thing much admired and much talked about, but as a reporter knocks around from one community to another, he becomes increasingly impressed with the fact that civic spirit—so-called—proves to be the result of a handful of energetic personalities, usually business leaders. In localities where there does not happen to be such a little group of aggressive, public-spirited, dominant personalities, you don't have much civic spirit. The difference can be felt instantly. Many communities are wide open with opportunity for public-minded businessmen who are willing to ease up a little in their money-making and pitch in on civic enterprises. . . .

"In any live and pushing community

of medium size, you will usually find a gang of businessmen who are responsible for the drive. A banker or two, a department store operator, the local utilities manager, perhaps—not more than five or six persons usually. . . . I was talking with a person in one of these communities about it. 'Sure,' he said, 'about three men run this town. They run it just about as they want to run it. But they do a good job. . . . Call it an oligarchy, if you insist. But somebody has to do these things.'"

Does Mr. Clapper's description fit your community? If so, are you satisfied with the situation? If we believe in democracy, should we let a few people run our town? Can we be as certain that they will run it in the interests of all the people as if a larger number took active part in making the plans and executing them? Is one doing his full duty as a citizen in a democratic nation when he is content to let a handful of men run his community? These are questions worth thinking about.



DRAWN FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON

THERE ARE MANY trouble spots in North Africa and the Middle East. Poverty is one of the main causes of discontent in this area, and resentment over foreign

influence is another. Communists are doing what they can to stir up unrest and create turmoil. They hope that political chaos will help them to seize power.

Trouble Spots

(Continued from page 1)

There were skirmishes between British troops and Egyptian fighters along the canal. Rioting broke out in Cairo and for a while, late last month, wild mobs virtually ruled the Egyptian capital.

At this point, Egypt's King Farouk entered the picture. He dismissed Premier Mustapha Nahas Pasha, whose cabinet had done little except to stir up public emotions; and he appointed a new Premier—Aly Maher Pasha. At the end of January, the new Premier had temporarily, at least, restored order and indicated that his government would be willing to consider the U. S.-British-French-Turkish offer to establish a joint defense of Suez. As we go to press, though, it is too early to predict how easily a solution can be worked out.

Uprisings Elsewhere

Regardless of what happens in Egypt, we can be fairly certain of one thing: North Africa and the Middle East will, for a long time, continue to have many trouble spots. In Tunisia, on the central Mediterranean coast of Africa, numerous lives have been lost in riots and street fights between the natives and their French rulers. Iran's oil dispute with Britain continues to cause grave concern.

The vast and uneasy area of North Africa and the Middle East, which extends from Iran in the east to Morocco in the west, is about 1½ times as large as the United States, and it has well over a hundred million people. It is strategically located. If Russia got control of the area, she would outflank western Europe on the south, and she could cut the western European nations' shortest sea route (via Suez Canal) to the Orient. Some of the Middle Eastern countries, including

Iran, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia, are extremely rich in petroleum.

It is vital to the United States and other democratic nations that we win and keep the friendship and support of these African and Asian territories. Today, however, our ties with North Africa and the Middle East are far from secure. The discontent of the peoples in that area is—to a great extent—being directed against us and our European allies.

What are the causes of trouble in North Africa and the Middle East?

Poverty is one of the main difficulties. Few Americans can even visualize the privation which millions of people south and east of the Mediterranean must endure. The average yearly income per person, in many countries of the area, equals about \$100 or less. For the United States, the average is about \$1,500.

To take one of the North African countries as an example, let us look at Egypt. With an area of about 380,000 square miles, that nation is almost as large as Texas and New Mexico combined. Most of its territory, though, is barren desert, and only the narrow Nile Valley is suitable for farming. Into this valley—not much larger than the state of Maryland—are crowded nearly all of Egypt's 20 million people, mostly farmers. Each family has such a small plot of ground that earning a good living is impossible.

The average Egyptian farm family lives in a two-room mud hut. This dwelling is shared with a few chickens, perhaps an ox, and a great swarm of flies. There is practically no furniture. Drinking water is obtained from the germ-laden Nile. It is unlikely that anyone in the family can read or write. The people—sick and undernourished—spend their days cultivating the soil with tools that have not been changed for centuries.

Somewhat the same story, with just a few variations, could be applied to other parts of North Africa and the

Middle East. Some areas are inhabited by farmers, and other areas by wandering herdsmen, but practically everywhere there is poverty, illiteracy, disease, misery.

In Egypt, Iran, and other places, the governments have long been controlled by a few wealthy families, and have paid little attention to the needs of the common people. Powerful officials have often used their jobs as a means of enriching themselves, rather than for serving their fellow citizens.

Throughout much of North Africa and the Middle East, relatively few farmers possess land of their own. They till the fields of wealthy landlords, and pay out large portions of their meager incomes as rent. Inequalities, corruption, and poverty form an important part of the setting for turmoil in North Africa and the Middle East today.

Extreme nationalism—an urge to throw off all forms of foreign influence—is a rapidly growing force in the area we are discussing. It is the immediate cause of the British-Iranian oil crisis, and of the riots and disorders in Egypt and Tunisia.

Although Iran and Egypt are independent countries, both feel that Great Britain has—in one way or another—been exerting too much influence over them. We have already seen how violently Egypt has reacted as a result of this feeling.

As for Iran, her rich oil fields were until last year controlled and operated by a British-owned company. The Iranian government, under Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh, seized the oil industry and drove the British out.

Tunisia, with 3½ million people in an area about as large as Georgia's, is known as a *protectorate* of France. In other words, it is actually controlled by the French, even though it has its own king. Tunisia is a next-door neighbor of Libya, a former Italian possession which has just gained com-

plete independence. Now the Tunisians are violently demanding self-rule. Unless France acts quickly to reach a satisfactory agreement with these people, there may be full-scale revolt.

Other French territories in North Africa include Algeria and a large portion of Morocco. There is discontent in these lands too, but it is not as extreme there as in Tunisia.

Feeling of Sympathy

The spirit of nationalism is something that Americans can easily understand. It is the spirit which led to the American Revolution and the establishment of an independent United States. In general, our people have sympathized with others who resent foreign influence and domination.

On the other hand, our nation does not like to see North Africa and the Middle East flaming with revolt at a time when there is already so much tension in the world. It is widely felt that the U. S. government should do all it can to persuade Britain and France, as well as the African and Asiatic peoples, that peaceful compromises would benefit both sides.

Communists are the only people who are gaining from riots and disorders in the Mediterranean area, even though it cannot be said that the Communists are actually *responsible* for the turmoil that has developed. Basically, that turmoil is the result of local dissatisfaction with miserable living conditions, unwanted foreign influence, and so on.

Nevertheless, Communist agitators are doing all they can to make the situation worse. They play upon discontent, cultivate hatreds, and goad mobs into acts of violence. They hope eventually to bring about such chaos that they can easily take control of various North African and Middle Eastern areas. They talk loudly of "independence," and the end of foreign influence. But they themselves are

(Concluded on page 3, column 4)

Fourth of a Series on Presidential Prospects

Senator Kefauver of Tennessee Is In the Race

Here is the fourth in a series of special features on leading contenders for the Presidency. This week we discuss Estes Kefauver, the first Democrat to become an active candidate for his party's nomination.

What is Mr. Kefauver's background?

Born 48 years ago in Madisonville, Tennessee, Estes Kefauver was graduated from the University of Tennessee. Later, he obtained a law degree at Yale University and, after being admitted to the bar in Tennessee, he practiced in Chattanooga for several years.

Kefauver's first public office was that of finance commissioner of Tennessee, a position to which he was appointed in 1939. That same year, in a special election, he won a seat in the U. S. House of Representatives. Kefauver was returned to the House by his district until 1948, when he was elected to the Senate.

During the senatorial campaign, he was strenuously opposed by the Democratic Party boss, Ed Crump. Crump had long dominated the party in Tennessee, and Kefauver's battle and subsequent victory were watched with interest by political observers.

It was in that election that Mr. Kefauver adopted the coon-skin cap as his campaign symbol. Mr. Crump, to belittle the candidate, called him a "pet coon." Kefauver took up the name and began to appear in a coon-skin cap when he made his political speeches. The symbol has stuck with him.

The senator came prominently into the national spotlight in 1950 as chairman of a special committee named by the upper house to investigate crime in the United States. The committee held hearings in cities and towns across the country. Its work not only uncovered national crime syndicates, but revealed ties between the crime world and many local political groups.

What are the senator's views on problems that face the nation today?

As a congressman and senator, Kefauver has usually upheld the Democratic Administration, both on its national and international proposals. He has, though, taken issue with President Truman on the civil rights issue. He says legislation in this field should be left to the states. (Truman feels that certain states have failed to protect the working, voting, and legal rights of minority groups and that the federal government should, therefore, take action.)

As a lawmaker, Senator Kefauver has consistently supported proposals for U. S. military and economic aid to our allies. He strongly backs the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and its efforts to build European defenses against possible Communist aggression. He also supports strong economic cooperation among the NATO nations.

How good a candidate would Kefauver make if nominated?

Democrats who want Senator Kefauver as their party's Presidential candidate argue as follows:

"The senator has shown that he is a skilled and effective campaigner.

Faced with opposition from the powerful Crump machine in Tennessee, Kefauver toured the state, won the support of varied groups, and defeated the candidate whom Crump had sponsored. What he did in Tennessee he could do on a national scale as the Democratic nominee.

"As a result of his appearances on television in connection with the crime investigations, Kefauver is already widely known and respected throughout the country. The qualities that appealed to the TV audience—dignity and the ability to handle the opposition—would make him a good campaigner for the Presidency.

"Kefauver's reputation for crime work and his record in trying to promote efficient government make him the kind of candidate the Democratic Party needs. The machine politicians have been discredited by scandals and stories of 'influence peddling.' Unless the Democrats select as their candidate a man who is known for his firm stand against corruption and dis-

speaker. His TV appearances as chairman of the crime investigating committee showed him at his best, and they made him a popular figure for a time. Since then, though, the senator has disappointed his audiences. Many groups that have asked him to speak as a result of his crime work have felt let down. Kefauver often reads from a prepared manuscript in an uninspired way. A candidate must have the ability to carry his audiences with him.

"It is very doubtful that Mr. Kefauver could bring the Dixiecrats back into the Democratic Party, and the Democrats win most southern votes anyway. He has followed the Administration in voting on measures that many southerners oppose. He would not be much more popular with this group than Mr. Truman is."

If nominated and elected, would Kefauver make a good President?

People who want Senator Kefauver as President make these points:



SENATOR ESTES KEFAUVER of Tennessee, who gained fame by conducting a Senate crime investigation, is seeking the Democratic nomination for President

honesty, the Republicans are certain to win.

"Finally, the senator could bring those southerners known as the Dixiecrats, who have revolted against President Truman's leadership, back into the party." (The Dixiecrats strongly believe that each state should handle its own civil rights problem.)

Democrats who do not want Kefauver as their candidate say:

"The senator does not have the support of the Democratic Party machines—particularly those in the large cities—and no candidate can win without such support.

"In his crime investigations, Kefauver discredited the political bosses by trying to show connections between gamblers, police departments, and politicians. His work even resulted in the defeat of several prominent Democrats in the 1950 congressional elections. A man who makes enemies among the local party leaders has no hope of winning as a candidate for national office. "Kefauver is really not an effective

"The senator has had wide experience in government, and his training and experience as a lawyer would be helpful to him if he became Chief Executive. On the basis of all his proposals for improving the government and on the basis of his reputation for honesty, we could expect an efficient and graft-free administration under Mr. Kefauver.

"The senator has an intimate knowledge of national and international problems that face the United States. He has been dealing with these issues as a legislator for years. That knowledge would stand him in good stead as President. He also understands how ordinary people think and work—an asset to any President.

"Mr. Kefauver has supported most of the present Administration's policies, and we could expect him to continue the best of those policies during his term in office. At the same time, though, he would give us more efficient government than we now have under President Truman."

Democrats who do not want Mr. Kefauver to become President say:

"The senator's experience in government is really very limited. He knows the legislative processes, but he has never dealt with questions that arise in the executive branch. Our nation could suffer serious setbacks while Kefauver was trying to get the reins of government in his hands.

"In regard to international issues, the senator has usually acted wisely, but on at least one occasion he demonstrated an irresponsibility that could be serious if he were President. In a television appearance, he said that the British people were in the serious plight they face today largely because of their gambling and trying to get something for nothing.

"Even though England does permit gambling under government supervision, informed persons know that England's predicament has its roots in losses during the last war and in the falling away of the country's colonial empire since then. We do not want a President who recklessly misrepresents the facts about our leading ally.

Trouble Spots

(Concluded from page 2)

seeking to impose a new foreign influence over this region—namely, Russian.

Are there any bright spots for us in the North African and Middle Eastern picture? Yes, a few. We are on fairly good terms with some of the countries in the area, such as Saudi Arabia. Even in the trouble spots, like Iran, we have a number of friends. Turkey, a proud nation of more than 20 million people, is one of our staunchest allies in the increasingly intense struggle against Soviet communism.

North Africa and the Middle East still have a number of friendly ties with the United States and its allies. America's Point 4 program for aid to underdeveloped regions has gone into that part of the world—with the cooperation of several native governments. American technicians are helping the people to improve farming methods, health conditions, and education facilities. Among the nations which now receive Point 4 assistance are Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Israel.

The United States has air bases in Morocco, Libya, and Saudi Arabia. We are in Morocco by arrangement with France, which controls the territory, and our bases in Libya and Saudi Arabia are maintained with the consent of those countries. In case of an all-out war against Russia, such bases would help us tremendously in the defense of the Mediterranean area and the Middle East—both of which are keys to defense elsewhere.

The presence of these bases is an indication of the strategic importance of North Africa and the Middle East. We need the friendship and support of the people in that area, just as they need our economic and technical help in modernizing the agricultural and industrial facilities in their countries.

The Story of the Week



BALTIMORE, Maryland, has a court that deals exclusively with teen-agers' traffic violations. It is conducted by Chief Magistrate Stanley Scherr, shown discussing a traffic problem—using toy automobiles on a street diagram.

TV and Books

"What? Television will encourage students to read books? Impossible!" This statement, according to a TV official in Seattle, Washington, is often the first reaction of persons who are told that video can interest school students in good books. These people soon change their minds, it is said, when they learn the results of Seattle's *Telaventure Tales* show.

The Washington city's special TV program, which has been running on a "trial" basis for a number of weeks, has greatly increased book circulation among the school population in Seattle and near-by communities, broadcasters say. In fact, they point out, books discussed on the telecasts are in such great demand that there are seldom enough copies to go around.

Telaventure Tales bring books to life on the video screen once a week. Special young players act out scenes of a story, and a narrator rounds out the tale for the television fans. During the program, certain books which are available in near-by libraries are discussed.

NATO Developments

Admiral Lynde McCormick, chief of the U.S. Atlantic fleet, has made a determined start in his new job as head of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization naval forces. Chosen by NATO leaders recently, Admiral McCormick, who is widely regarded as a specialist on submarines and submarine warfare, is striving to forge the Atlantic treaty vessels into a fighting unit.

In past months, the appointment of a NATO sea leader had been held up because of disagreements between U.S. and British leaders over which country was to supply the top naval commander. Last month, however, British Prime Minister Churchill agreed to withdraw his country's claim to leadership over NATO ships, which opened the way for McCormick's appointment. England's Vice Admiral Sir William Andrewes will assist the American sea chief.

Here are some other recent NATO developments: (1) The U.S. Senate ratified the agreement to admit Greece and Turkey as partners in the defense

system—America is the seventh Atlantic treaty nation to take such action. Five more countries must ratify the agreement before Greece and Turkey become full members of the pact. (2) The treaty members are studying West Germany's request for a voice in NATO policies.

Good News from Asia

Is all of Asia turning against us? Are the Communists winning the struggle for men's minds in the Far East? *New York Times* writer Robert Smith, who recently visited many lands in the Orient, answers these questions with an emphatic "No."

Of course, newsman Smith says, the Communists are a grave threat to all free nations of Asia. But, he adds, freedom is making far greater gains in this part of the globe than most Americans realize. Here, in brief, are some of Smith's views on conditions in the Far East:

"A visitor to Asiatic countries today will find less fear, less hunger, and a greater determination to build a free, new life among the peoples of Asia than ever before in recent history. Young and old people alike are eagerly seeking ways to improve their countries. They are grateful to America for her helping hand in the fight against poverty and disease, and

they hope this aid will continue for a time.

"Of course, there are big jobs to be done in this part of the globe. Farmers need tools, sick people need medical care, and most of all, the Communist menace must be crushed. But the first big step forward has already been taken. The people of non-Communist Asia have overcome the paralysis of the past, and they have set goals for a better life in the future."

Push Button Voting?

Democratic Representative Charles Bennett, of Florida, wants Congress to install new electric voting machines which would make it possible for a legislator to give his opinion on a bill simply by pushing "yes" or "no" buttons. The number of votes for and against a measure would immediately appear on a scoreboard.

Representative Bennett declares that the nation's lawmakers now lose at least six minutes out of every hour of work on Capitol Hill by voting on bills. Voting machines, he argues, would save time and cut congressional costs, because issues could be voted upon speedily.

Actually, the use of voting machines by lawmakers is not new. About one third of our state legislatures have been using such devices for a number of years.

The balloting methods now used in Congress include (1) the *roll call*, in which each lawmaker answers "yea" or "nay" as his name is called by an official; (2) *teller vote*, used only in the House, whereby Representatives give their decision as they file past tellers, or clerks; and (3) *voice vote*, in which congressmen answer "yea" or "nay" as a body, when asked to decide an issue.

What Goes On in Burma?

Jacob Malik, Soviet delegate to the United Nations, has accused our country of sending arms and military advisers to Chinese Nationalist troops which he claims are in the southeast Asiatic land of Burma. America is helping these followers of Chiang Kai-shek, anti-Communist ruler of Formosa, to prepare for an attack on Communist China, Malik declared.

American officials say that the Soviet charge is nothing but groundless

propaganda. Burmese leaders agree with the United States view. However, officials of Burma point out that their armies are fighting some 10,000 Chinese Nationalists inside their borders not too far from China's frontier.

The only way to clear up this confusion, observers of the free nations contend, is to send UN investigators to Burma to learn the true facts. Then, if the Soviets oppose such an inquiry, the world will know that Russia's charges are false, it is said.

Meanwhile, we and our allies fear that Russia and Communist China may be plotting to use their propaganda charges as an excuse to invade southeast Asia. That is why the United States, Britain, and France recently warned the Soviets that the western nations will call for instant UN military action if the Communists attack China's neighbors.

Newspaper Reading

Though we use more than one half of the world's supply of newsprint—paper on which newspapers are printed—we read fewer papers, than do the citizens of some other lands, according to a United Nations survey. Proportionately more people read newspapers in the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland) than in any other nation on the globe. For every 1,000 people in the U.K., 600 newspapers are sold each day, the UN study shows.

Other countries near the top of the list include Australia, 455 per thousand people; Luxembourg, 441; and Sweden, 416.

The United States, by comparison, holds seventh place in newspaper circulation with 357 daily papers sold per 1,000 inhabitants. American newspapers, however, are larger than most foreign ones. This, plus our larger population, accounts for the fact that we use more newsprint than any other country.

At the lower end of the scale, India, Burma, and Iraq have a circulation of 6 daily newspapers per thousand people; Thailand 4; Pakistan 2; and Afghanistan only 1.

U. S.—British Agreement

Under a special agreement between Britain and the United States, we shall get some 20,000 tons of tin and



THIS 1903 MODEL Ford is still going strong. It is owned by Chester Hyland (shown above) of St. Louis Park, Minnesota.



QUITE A CONTRAST is presented by this new 1952 Ford sedan. Ford, along with other manufacturers, is now getting its new models onto the market. A new body design is being used this year.



A VIEW OF PARIS. Shown here is the Place de la Concorde, a famous public square in France's beautiful capital city. Paris, which attracts tourists from everywhere, claims to be about 2,000 years old. Its population is nearly 3 million.

25,000 tons of natural rubber from Malaya, as well as 55 million pounds of aluminum from Canada. (Britain's connections with Malaya and Canada enabled her to make this deal.)

In return, the U.S. will ship about one million tons of steel to Britain. Moreover, Uncle Sam has agreed to grant England 300 million dollars in aid to help our British ally buy the materials she needs to keep defense factories running at high speed.

Both sides are pleased with the agreement. American manufacturers, who have been troubled by severe shortages in certain metals, need tin and aluminum to turn out defense goods. At the same time, Britain's arms plants desperately need steel and other products to avert a serious slowdown in England's rearmament plans.

Government Spreads Out

As time goes on, the nation's capital is handling a proportionately smaller amount of "the federal government's daily business operation." The House of Representatives is now considering a bill, passed by the Senate last fall, to shift an additional 50,000 government workers from the District of Columbia to other parts of the nation.

The chief purpose of this measure is to scatter government activities over a wide area as a defense against air attacks, and to relieve the crowded conditions in Washington, D. C.

Already, nearly 9 out of 10 people who work for Uncle Sam are scattered over the nation. In fact, California has more federal employees than does the District of Columbia. New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Illinois, and Ohio each have over 100,000 government workers within their borders. The total number of civilian federal workers is over two million.

Foreign Policy Controversy

What changes, if any, should our nation make in its global policies? The debate over this question has been intensified since former President Hoover recently expressed his views once again on American foreign policy. Mr. Hoover sharply criticized the Truman Administration's global programs and contended that we are disastrously weakening ourselves by send-

ing men, as well as large-scale military and financial aid, to other countries. His argument runs this way:

"Instead of draining the nation's wealth and manpower by sending huge amounts of aid abroad, we should build powerful sea and air armadas at home. Then we can make our Western Hemisphere a fortress of strength. Such a plan would be more certain of success, and far less expensive than our present policies.

"If we continue to weaken ourselves, we shall be an easy prey for the Communists. But if we build up our own strength, and give what aid we can to other nations, we will be invincible. Meanwhile, the evil system of communism may poison itself and die."

The supporters of President Truman's world policies reply in this way:

"Mr. Hoover's 'stay-at-home' policies are dangerous and impractical in these days of swift communications and long-range, destructive weapons. Our best and only defense against the

Soviets is to stop them before they can come to our shores. We need the support of our friends and allies to do this. We cannot do it alone.

"Besides, we need the raw materials of other countries, as well as their trade, to keep our economy alive. Finally, it would be folly to sit back and hope for communism's destruction. We must, instead, take positive steps to strengthen freedom everywhere."

References

"Story of Russia's Weakness," *U. S. News & World Report*, January 11, 1952. Many of the Soviet Union's inner weaknesses stem from her political and economic systems.

"Man of the Year," *Time*, January 7, 1952. Mohammed Mossadegh, and the challenge that his nation represents.

"Egypt," *U. S. News & World Report*, October 12, 1951.

"In Turbulent Morocco," *New York Times Magazine*, January 6, 1952. Pictures and a brief article.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

If they can do it to watches, why not make ladies' gloves so they will glow in the dark under a seat at the movies?

★

Women, declares a Washington feminist, will be managing the affairs of the nation by 1960. And—er—what are they doing now?



"Will Washington cross the Delaware? Will the Hessians discover his secret? Will the river freeze? . . . The answers to these questions will come to you tonight, when you open your history books at chapter four."

"At last," said the ambitious young novelist, "I have written something that will be accepted by the first magazine it is sent to."

"What is it?" asked his friend.

"A check for a year's subscription."

★

"I am pleased beyond words to see such a dense crowd come out to hear my message tonight," said the candidate starting his speech.

"Don't be too pleased," came a voice from the back of the hall. "We're not all dense."

★

Grocer: "Have you been to the zoo?"

Delivery Boy: "No, sir."

Grocer: "Well, you ought to go some time. You'd get a big kick out of watching the turtles zip past."

★

Tenant: "The people upstairs are very annoying. Last Monday they were stamping and banging on the floor till after midnight."

Landlord: "Did they wake you?"

Tenant: "No, I was practicing on my tuba."

★

A small girl at the zoo asked why the giraffe had such a long neck.

"Well," said the keeper, "he really needs a long neck because his head is so far away from his body."

Study Guide

Rival Systems

1. What is the all-important issue of our times?
2. Describe the American plan of free enterprise, or capitalism.
3. Tell what the Russian economic system is like.
4. Compare living standards under the two systems.
5. What has been the world-wide economic trend in recent years?
6. Compare the United States and Russia with respect to: free speech and press; elections; court trials; religion; opportunities for young people.
7. What is the biggest obstacle to getting along with Russia?
8. Describe the program which leaders of the free nations feel must be followed to convince Russia she cannot fulfill her global ambitions?

Discussion

Do you think the present world struggle is bound to result in global war, or do you think it is possible for the countries that follow different systems to find a way of getting along together? Explain your position.

North Africa, Middle East

1. How have the United States, Britain, France, and Turkey proposed to settle the British-Egyptian controversy over the Suez Canal?
2. Briefly describe the strategic importance of North Africa and the Middle East.
3. Tell how the average Egyptian farm family lives.
4. Discuss the effects of extreme nationalism in Iran, Egypt, and Tunisia.
5. How do the Communists hope to gain from the chaos in North African and Middle Eastern countries?
6. Name some North African and Middle Eastern lands in which the United States has air bases.
7. List several countries in this area that are receiving "Point 4" assistance from the United States.

Discussion

1. When you read of riots and fighting in North Africa and the Middle East, do you generally regard them as justifiable protests against foreign influence, or do you regard these disorders as the work of trouble-makers? Explain your position.

2. What do you think the United States can and should do to help improve conditions and make friends in this troubled region? Explain.

Miscellaneous

1. Who is Admiral Lynde McCormick? What are his new duties?
2. How does a recent agreement between the U. S. and Britain help both nations?
3. According to *New York Times* writer Robert Smith, what progress are the peoples of some Asiatic lands making?
4. Why do the free nations want a UN investigation of the Soviet charge that we are sending arms to Chinese Nationalists in Burma?
5. How does our country compare with other nations in newspaper circulation?
6. Briefly describe former President Hoover's foreign policy suggestions. How do supporters of President Truman's global programs answer these proposals?

Pronunciations

Aly Maher Pasha—ah'lee mah'hēr pah'shah

Farouk—fah-rō'ok

Mohammed Mossadegh—mōō-hahm'-mud maw-sah-dēk

Mustapha Nahas Pasha—mōōs'tah-fah nah-hahs' pah'shah

Tunisia—tyōō-nish'yuh

Rival Systems

(Continued from page 1)

How does the Russian economic system operate?

Directly opposite from the American economic system is the Russian. The farms, factories, railways, mines, stores, and nearly all other industries and businesses in that country are owned and managed by the government. In some cases, the people are supposed to own their farm or industrial enterprises collectively, but actually they are mere employees of the state. They run these enterprises exactly as the government tells them.

Hours, wages, and other labor conditions in Russia are decided by public officials. Workers must get permission to go from one job to another if they are dissatisfied with their employment situation. They cannot en-

why her people are not better off than they are, and that is what makes Russia a threat to world peace.

Why do the Russians cling to a system which has failed to give them higher living standards?

The Communist leaders are still convinced that their system offers a better hope for the future than does capitalism. They insist that government officials will work much more for the public welfare than will private business and industrial leaders who, they say, "are primarily interested in profits for themselves." They contend that Russian living standards today are much higher than they were before the Communists came into power.

What reply do Americans give to the Russian view?

Nearly all Americans are convinced that capitalism or free enterprise has been and will continue to be by far the

dustries of these countries were left in such a bad situation as a result of World War II, it became widely felt among the people involved that only government management could bring business back to normal.

Americans hope that most nations, as conditions improve, will gradually return to systems of free enterprise and private industry.

If the economic systems of such lands as Britain and France are partly like Russia's, why are those countries lined up with the United States in today's conflict?

The answer lies in the political systems which these countries have. Even though their economic systems are, to some degree, like Russia's, their political systems do not resemble the Soviet one at all. Public decisions in these lands are made by democratic rather than dictatorial methods. The people have the same political freedom and privileges we enjoy.

tee the right of American citizens to choose their leaders. Voting is done by secret ballot, so citizens may mark their choices without being watched. Candidates of the various parties are free to seek the support of the people. A losing candidate can criticize the actions of the winner, and can try, in the next election, to defeat the man holding office.

In Russia, the government is supreme, and the people are its servants. Control is in the hands of a small group of leaders. Only one slate of candidates appears on the ballot. Any voter who dares to display opposition to the ruling group receives harsh treatment. The Communist Party is the only party permitted to exist. In whatever lands the Communists have gained power, they have imprisoned or killed opposition leaders who would not support them.

How does the procedure in court trials compare in the United States and the Soviet Union?

In our country, a person accused of crime must have a fair trial. He is considered innocent until proved guilty, and he can be convicted of serious crimes only by a jury of citizens. He can take his case to higher courts in an attempt to prove his innocence.

The Soviet leaders imitate some of these methods, but do not carry them out in spirit. The accused person in Russia is treated in just the way that the government wants him to be.

Contrast the ways the U. S. and Russia look upon religion.

The American people have the right to worship as they please. The government does not tell them to uphold or oppose any church or religious group.

In the early days of Communist rule, the Soviet government closed the churches, destroyed freedom of worship, and opposed all forms of religion. In more recent years, the government has permitted a limited number of churches to exist, but religious leaders are careful to do nothing which will displease the government, and they must observe many restrictions. Freedom of religion as we know it does not exist in Russia.

What about young people in the two countries?

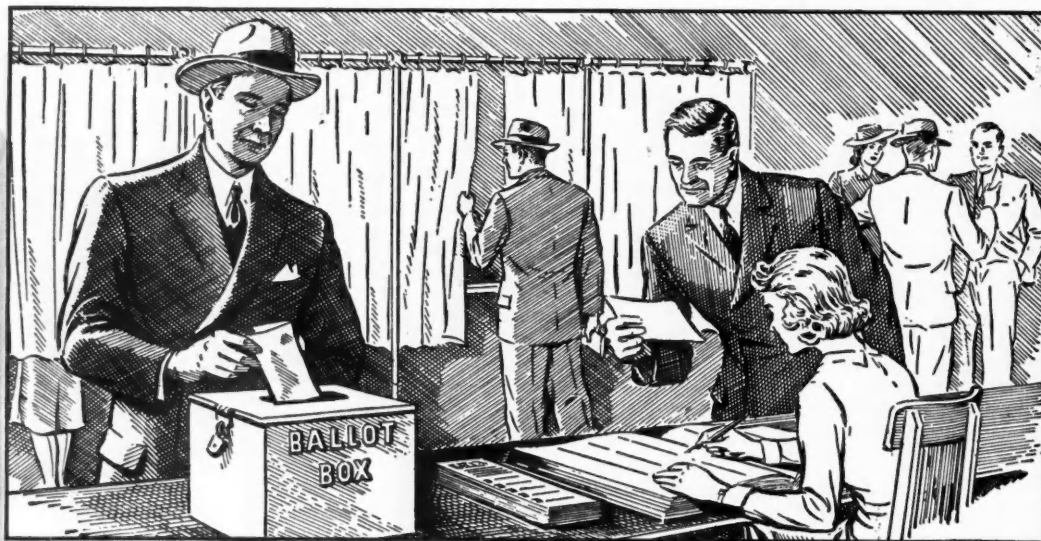
American youths may normally prepare for careers of their own liking. No government department in this country tells young people where to go to school, what views they must adopt, or how many years they can spend in obtaining an education. (There may, of course, be postponements of college education during periods of war crisis.) American youths may study controversial issues and problems affecting their country and the rest of the world.

Reading, writing, and arithmetic are taught to Russian boys and girls, too, but the government is all-powerful over the schools and the pupils. The schools teach only what the Communist leaders order. The Soviet government has the power to say how long young people may attend school, what they are to study, and what careers they are to enter. There is no freedom of choice for Russian youth.

What other differences between the United States and Russia exist?

In the United States, we are guaranteed the right to speak, write, and publish what we please. In Russia there

(Concluded on page 7)



FREE ELECTIONS distinguish democracies from dictatorships. A statesman from a foreign democracy recently wisecracked, "Elections are a nuisance. There is only one thing worse than having them, and that is not having them!"

gage in strikes under any circumstances.

The Soviet government runs factories and farms. It decides what they shall produce, and in what quantities.

How do living standards compare under the two systems?

A study carried out by the United Nations a year or so ago placed the average yearly income per person in Russia at \$308. The same study showed that the average income for Americans was almost five times the figure for Russians.

The average city family in Russia lives in one room of an apartment, and shares the use of the kitchen with two, three, or four other families. Bread and cereal products make up much of the diet. Eggs, meat, and milk are considered luxuries.

In the United States there is one passenger car for every four people; in Russia there is one for every 269 Soviet citizens. In this country we have one telephone for every four people; in Russia there is one phone for every 129 persons. The Russian standard of living simply cannot be compared with the American.

It is a fact, however, that Russia now has many more factories and industrial enterprises than she had some years ago. A large portion of her industrial strength, though, is being used for military purposes. That is

best economic system. They argue their case in this way:

"Under private industry, people know that the harder they work and think, the larger their financial rewards will be. Competition and the profit system stimulate business and inventive initiative, whereas government ownership stifles individual enterprise. American economic progress has never been approached by a system of government ownership."

Why are most Americans concerned about the world-wide economic trend in recent years?

Since the war, the trend has been toward increasing government ownership and control. Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and other European lands controlled by the Soviet government have placed their farms and industries under public ownership or management. Most Yugoslavian factories are government-owned. China is adopting the economic ideas of Russia.

The movement toward government ownership and control has also been in evidence in a number of non-Communist countries. For example, in England a number of the big basic industries, such as coal-mining, electric-power plants, and railroads, have been taken over by the government. In France, Italy, and Belgium, the trend has been toward a large measure of government ownership. The in-

The British government, for example, did not take over industries until a majority of the Parliament elected by the people decided upon such a course. Those who believed in government control of industry did not think of staging a revolution, in which private property should be taken from the owners by force.

Hence, the British government, although owning a number of the nation's large industries, remains democratic. The people choose their officials and decide their public policies in free and fair elections in which all parties may participate.

As a matter of fact, the British, in their most recent election, voted the socialistic Labor Party out of power and placed the Conservatives in control of their government again. The Conservatives do not intend to eliminate all government ownership, but they will cut down on the amount of socialism in England.

Such is the big difference between democratic countries that are partly socialistic and Communist nations. Democratic peoples possess many freedoms which Communists, wherever they are in control, have stamped out.

Compare elections and politics in the United States and Russia.

In the United States the people are supreme, and the government is their servant. The U. S. Constitution and the constitutions of the states guaran-

Readers Say—

Do the movies, television programs, and magazines of today have a bad effect on the morals of teen-agers? I don't think so. In general, I believe most movies and TV programs offer good entertainment and some helpful educational features. Though many magazines deal with crime, most of these publications point out the evils of wrongful acts.

DINA CASSO,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

★

I am a German high school student, and I particularly enjoy getting THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. I believe your paper can be of great value in uniting young people around the globe, and in spreading democracy. I do not think any nation today can stand alone, and I consider your publication to be an important link between nations of the world.

KLAUS BERGMANN,
Speyer, Germany.

★

Our country should be ready at all times to take part in a sincere disarmament program, but I am not certain that Russia will give up her present plans to build a mighty military machine. That is why we must devote all our energy and resources to strengthening our country's defenses until the Soviet leaders accept world disarmament.

JAMES STURMIE,
Akron, Ohio

★

I believe we are spending far too much money in helping other lands. We have countless projects that must be done here in our own country. Let us rebuild our slum-housing areas, construct the schools we need, and help those people in America who are underfed before we send our money to all corners of the globe.

JOHN WERSE,
Chappaqua, New York.



It is true that we are sending large sums of money to peoples in foreign lands; but I think it is money well spent. A few dollars in aid from us can help hundreds of people in underdeveloped lands get a new start in life. This money not only combats communism, but it also brings life itself to people who are faced with starvation.

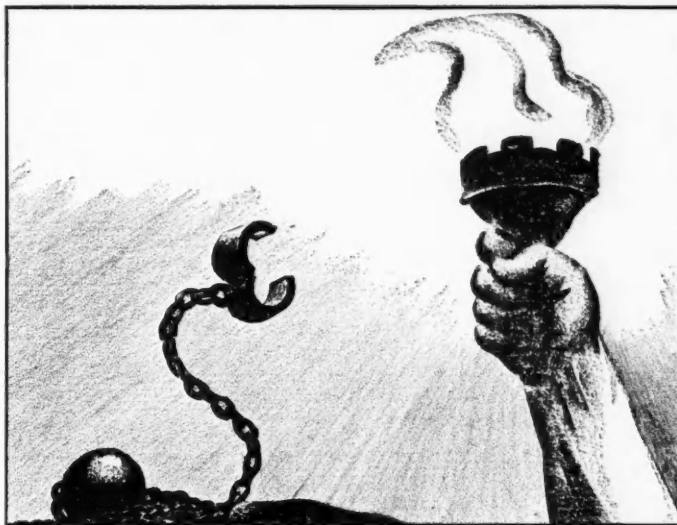
JO ANN MCCARTY,
Lamphier, Michigan.

★

Upon reading "Historical Backgrounds" in your issue of January 21, I find that you mentioned John Randolph as the Attorney General in Washington's Cabinet. I believe it was Edmund Randolph who held that post.

DON TIPPEN,
Palestine, Texas.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Tippen is correct. We regret the error.)



THE STRUGGLE of liberty against tyranny and oppression has been going on for many centuries. In the past, just as at present, it has been a hard fight.

Clash of Systems

(Concluded from page 6)

is no such thing as freedom of speech or press.

We have the right to assemble freely, and American police may not ruthlessly search a person's home or seize him for arrest. Instead they must obey certain rules which are set up to protect individual rights.

In the Soviet Union, people may not hold meetings to suit themselves, and Russian police may search and arrest as much as they please. The citizen has no protection against them as they carry out government orders.

Many other differences might be mentioned, but these are some of the vital ones. We in the United States realize, of course, that conditions here are not perfect in every respect. There is still room for progress in living up to our democratic ideals and principles.

The people in a democracy, however, are free to correct injustices and to move toward higher goals. Each individual in our land can be constantly working for changes which he thinks should be made. How precious this privilege is cannot begin to be appreciated unless one has lived or traveled in a dictator-controlled land.

In Russia and other Communist countries, on the other hand, the common people are not free to work for changes in their living conditions. They are completely at the mercy of a handful of dictatorial leaders.

What seems to be the biggest barrier to friendly relations with Russia?

Despite the differences in political and economic systems, free nations of the world would be willing to try to get along with Russia if it weren't for the fact that her government is determined to force the Communist system on the rest of the world. The Soviet officials are not satisfied with merely dominating their own countrymen—they are fanatically desirous of dominating people everywhere.

This has been proved time and again. In Czechoslovakia, for example, the democratic officials leaned over backward after World War II to cooperate with the Russians, but it did not save them. In 1948 Russia gave the signal for the Czech Communists to stage an uprising. Since

then, Russia has controlled Czechoslovakia.

Yugoslavia affords another example of Russia's determination to dominate all nations. The Yugoslav leader, Tito, is a Communist and his government is Communist. However, he insisted on running his country without taking orders from Soviet leaders. The Russians have hated him ever since, and are trying hard to bring about his downfall.

So the Russian officials have proved that they not only want to communize other nations, but they want to control and dominate them as well. That is what they have done in most of eastern Europe. Moreover, they have encouraged aggression in Korea and Indo-China, wanting those lands to be controlled by Communists who, in turn, would be controlled by them. Sooner or later, the Chinese Communists will find they cannot get along with Russia unless they take orders from her.

Is there any way—short of war—of convincing Russia that she cannot get away with the program she is pursuing?

Most leaders of the free nations are convinced that the best hope of changing Russia's mind and her aggressive policy is to let her know that we can and will exceed her military strength. According to this point of view, force speaks louder to Russia than all the words in the dictionary.

Thus, it may be that if Russia becomes convinced that her opponents are going to outstrip her in military power, she may become more reasonable and willing to compromise. If she doesn't, the free nations, by having built up their military strength, will be in a strong position to meet Russia on the field of battle, if it comes to war.

So far as the Russian people are concerned, they may eventually, by one method or another, be able to free themselves from tyranny. The sad fact is that they have never known freedom as it exists in our country and in other democratic lands. There was very little political tolerance under the Czarist leaders who preceded the Communist dictators.

Monthly Test

NOTE TO TEACHERS: This test covers the issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER dated January 14, 21, 28 and February 4. The answer key appears in the February 11 issue of The Civic Leader.

Scoring: If grades are to be calculated on a percentage basis, we suggest that a deduction of 3 points be made for each wrong or omitted answer.

DIRECTIONS TO STUDENTS: In each of the following items, select the correct answer and write its letter on your answer sheet.

1. Each political party chooses its candidate for President at (a) a national nominating convention attended by delegates from all over the country; (b) state bazaars; (c) meetings of state legislatures; (d) party caucuses in the Senate and House.

2. In recent years Canada has experienced a period of (a) severe economic depression; (b) unstable government; (c) Communist rule; (d) rapid industrial growth.

3. A development since World War II that is expected to have far-reaching effects on Canada's economy has been the (a) discovery of gold in the Yukon region; (b) discovery of oil in western Canada; (c) exhaustion of the country's iron-ore deposits; (d) completion of a canal from Hudson Bay to the Great Lakes.

4. Leaders of the anti-Communist forces in Indo-China have been greatly disturbed by a threatened invasion of Communist troops from (a) Thailand; (b) China; (c) Soviet Russia; (d) Formosa.

5. The European country which formerly controlled Indo-China and is now playing a major role in protecting the free governments there is (a) Great Britain; (b) India; (c) France; (d) the Netherlands.

6. The U. S. national debt made its biggest rise (a) during World War II; (b) after the Mississippi floods of 1937; (c) as a result of the Point Four program; (d) during the economic depression of the 1930's.

7. The federal government owes its present debt of 260 billion dollars to (a) British bankers; (b) people and corporations that hold U. S. bonds or other securities; (c) government workers who have not received their salaries; (d) nations from whom we acquired raw materials during World War II.

8. The main purpose of the American aid program to more than 80 nations and territories since World War II has been to (a) create new markets for American products; (b) repay these lands for assistance they gave us during the war; (c) stop the spread of Russian communism; (d) reduce the big surplus in the U. S. treasury.

9. The job of the Mutual Security Agency is to (a) check on the backgrounds of applicants for government jobs; (b) alert the American people to the dangers of an atomic attack; (c) supervise our various aid programs to foreign lands; (d) sell insurance to members of the armed forces.

10. One of the reforms proposed by President Truman for the Bureau of Internal Revenue would (a) require that district tax collectors be appointed according to merit under civil service rules; (b) make J. Howard McGrath the Collector of Internal Revenue; (c) require that all district tax collectors be appointed by the President; (d) permit collectors to keep 10 per cent of the taxes they collected as their pay.

11. The basic cause of the poverty which Italy has known for many years is (a) large payments to Ethiopia for war damages; (b) a complete lack of seaports; (c) too much emphasis on manufacturing and too little on farming; (d) too many people for the country's size and resources.

12. Those who favor televising regular sessions of Congress argue that such action would (a) eliminate the need for newspapers; (b) be a good source of income for the government; (c) stimulate the interest of Americans in their government; (d) result in the election of many television actors to Congress.

(Concluded on next page)

Monthly Test

(Concluded from page 7)

13. Those who oppose televising regular sessions of Congress argue that such action would (a) put the newspapers out of business; (b) cause wives to neglect their household tasks; (c) interfere with the Howdy Doody program; (d) create an atmosphere in Congress not favorable for calm, thoughtful discussion.

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the word, name, or phrase that best completes the statement.

14. The great wealth of Saudi Arabia consists of _____.

15. A former Italian colony in North Africa which recently undertook self-rule is _____.

16. The first general to be elected President of the United States was _____.

17. A general who recently stated that he would accept but would not seek the Republican nomination for President is _____.

18. In volume of world trade, the U. S. ranks first, Britain ranks second, and _____ is third.

19. The special elections soon to be held in about 16 states are known as Presidential _____.

20. The two states which have each supplied six residents as Presidents of the United States are New York and _____.

21. The organization which has sent about 11 million packages abroad since World War II to relieve suffering in Europe and Asia is known as _____.

22. Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Laos are the three states which make up _____.

Identify the following persons. Choose the correct description from the list below. Write the letter which precedes that description opposite the number of the person to whom it applies.

23. Alcide de Gasperi

24. Styles Bridges

25. Averell Harriman

26. Louis St. Laurent

27. Harry Truman

28. Robert Taft

A. A former Senator who has held his present high office for almost seven years.

B. Head of the Mutual Security Agency.

C. Director of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

D. A present member of the Senate who seeks to be his party's nominee for President.

E. Premier of Italy.

F. Minority floor leader in the Senate.

G. Prime Minister of Canada.

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the letter of the word or phrase that most closely defines the word in italics.

29. In Canada free medical care is given to *indigents*. (a) everyone (b) children and mothers (c) Indians (d) poor people.

30. Some of Canada's forests are *inaccessible*. (a) not easily reached (b) not very old (c) far from the ocean (d) dense.

31. *Unethical* practices are considered (a) businesslike (b) profitable (c) morally wrong (d) praiseworthy.

32. Televising Congress might make lawmakers more *meticulous* in their speech. (a) pompous (b) careful (c) noisy (d) careless.

33. The Italians are a *volatile* people. (a) hard-working (b) destructive (c) lighthearted and lively (d) generous.

Career for Tomorrow

In the Building Trades

THE building trades make up a rather broad vocational field that includes carpenters, electricians, plumbers, painters, plasterers, bricklayers, and other persons who build homes and large buildings. Each group has a different job to do, but the duties are similar in that they require some use of independent judgment and a thorough knowledge of a particular field. The qualifications required are similar, too. They include a strong back, capable hands, intelligence, and the ability to understand the construction process.

If you want to go into any branch of the building trades, you might start as a helper and work with experienced men over a long period of years. Eventually, you would learn the fundamentals of your particular trade.

A four- or five-year apprenticeship offers a better approach, perhaps, if you want to become a journeyman—or highly skilled worker. The apprenticeship is controlled by an agreement, which is signed by union representatives, the employer, and the apprentice, and covers such points as wages, conditions of employment, and the course of training to be followed.

Should you become an apprentice, you would work side-by-side with journeymen for about 36 hours a week. You would help them when you could, receive instruction from them, and learn by observing their methods. You would also do a good deal of the actual work yourself.

Four hours each week would be

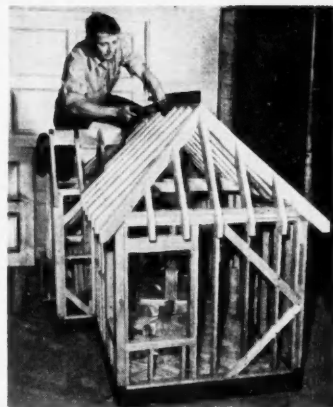
spent in the classroom, where you would study scientific subjects—mathematics, physics, chemistry—that are related to your trade. You would also learn mechanical drawing and acquire skill in reading blueprints. On the theoretical side you would learn something about the history of your trade, the economic principles that govern it, and local laws and regulations that apply to it. When you completed your apprenticeship, you might have to pass an examination to be licensed to do skilled jobs.

Journeymen are often employed as maintenance men in factories and other large buildings. Some work by the day for people who want jobs done around their homes. Most, though, work directly for contractors and on construction projects.

Wages in these trades vary in different localities, but they are generally good. An apprentice starts at about half the journeyman's wage in his locality and receives periodic increases throughout his apprenticeship. The average wage for journeymen, according to a recent figure, is about \$82 a week.

One of the chief disadvantages of a career in this field lies in the fact that construction comes to a halt during the winter months; and building is usually curtailed during periods of general business depression.

Among the advantages are the good wages and the opportunities there are for advancement. A journeyman may become a foreman and have charge of



LEARNING CARPENTRY through an apprenticeship

one section of a job. He may then go on to become an assistant superintendent or a superintendent and oversee all operations connected with a large project. As a further step up the ladder, he may establish himself as an independent contractor and supervise a building's entire construction.

Information about apprenticeships in your community can be obtained from local contracting firms and from the local offices of your State Employment Service. Information about apprenticeships in general can be secured free of charge from the Bureau of Apprenticeship, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington 25, D. C. A pamphlet entitled "Employment Outlook in the Building Trades" (Bulletin No. 967) can be obtained for 50 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

Historical Backgrounds - - 20 Years Ago

WHAT was happening in America and the rest of the world in February, 1932—just 20 years ago? Some of the news then sounds much like that of the present day, as our editors found in going back over old issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. Yet certain of the changes between 1932 and now—a short period of time in history—are startling.

Inflation Demanded to Check Price Fall, says a headline in the paper for February 3, 1932. This country was suffering from depression then. Hundreds of thousands were jobless. Farmers were hit by falling prices; wheat had dropped from \$1.15 to 50 cents a bushel, and the price was to go even lower. So there were numerous demands that the government act to boost prices—to cause inflation.

The depression of the 1930's is but a memory today. The country is prosperous. Prices and wages are high. The cost of living is so high that many Americans favor stronger government action to keep prices from going higher, and in some cases to lower prices. Instead of inflation, as was demanded 20 years ago, many Americans are asking for deflation.

Political Situation Attracts Attention was one of our headlines in February, 1932. The two parties then, as now, were making preparations to choose their candidates for the Presidential election race. At that time, members of each party disagreed over who would make the best candidate just as they do today. Alfred E. Smith, the Democratic Presidential

candidate for 1928, was trying to keep Franklin D. Roosevelt from getting the nomination at the 1932 convention. Some Republicans were hoping to keep President Herbert Hoover from running for re-election. Hoover won the nomination but lost the election. Roosevelt won over the Smith group and was elected President.

Today, both parties are maneuvering in a fashion quite like that of 1932. Various candidates want to clinch the nominations in advance of party conventions next summer.

Americans were hoping in 1932 that nations would do away with weapons of war as a step toward preserving peace. A World Disarmament Confer-

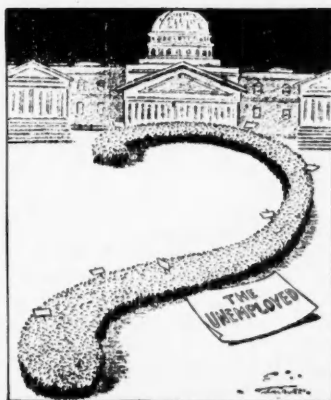
ence opened in Geneva, Switzerland. If successful, said THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, the conference would have a "profound influence on the future of everyone"; but, it was added, the task of reaching an agreement "is not an easy one."

No disarmament agreement was reached, and the chances for world peace faded away. Japan was already at war with China. Germany and Italy began building up their power for aggression. In 1939, World War II began.

Today we are again hearing appeals from many people for a world disarmament program. As in 1932, the chances of getting nations to throw away their weapons in the immediate future seem dim. Disarmament will be impossible until Russia is willing to cooperate in an effective plan. Once again there is war in the Far East.

There is one big difference between the situation today and that of 1932, however. Twenty years ago, free nations did not set about quickly to build their strength—although they saw the mounting dangers from Italy, Germany, and Japan after disarmament talks failed. When war began, the democracies were pitifully weak.

Today, everyone is well aware of the dangers of Communist attack, and we and our allies are working together to build strength as fast as possible. It may not be possible to bring about disarmament soon to preserve peace. If we and our allies are strong, however, it may be possible to frighten Russia from attack. That is our hope today.



UNEMPLOYMENT was one of the nation's big worries in 1932, and it was the subject of many serious cartoons